

# NOME OF ABYDOS - 1



Osiris

## ■ Introduction

Ancient Egyptians lived along a very narrow band of land that was made fertile by the Nile River's yearly flooding. They called this land KMT (*kemet*, or the Black Land, for the dark color of its earth). All else was DSHRT (*deshret*, or the Red Land, for its red sands and scorching heat). Another name for ancient Egypt is *Tamera*, "the land of the inundation."

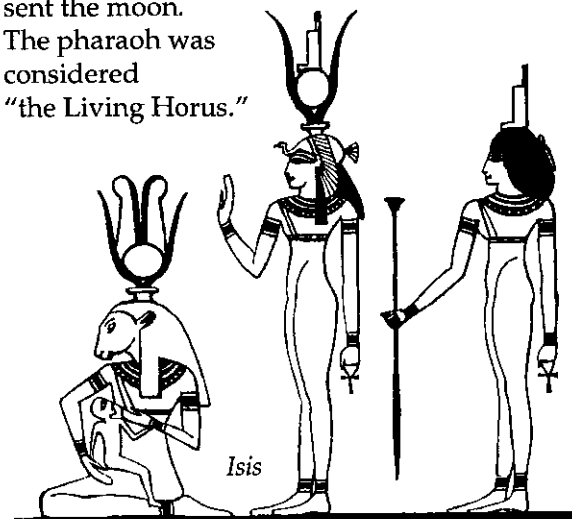
From earliest times Ancient Egyptians unified neighboring villages into districts called *hesep*, or in Greek, *nome*. Each nome had its own government, capital city, protective god or gods, and temple. The nomes had carefully marked boundaries with records kept of their amount of farm land and their canals with all their branches. Each nome had a standard, a portable sign that included an image of the nome deity or a symbol of religious power.

## ■ About the nome

- You are a member of the nome of the Abtu, the eighth nome of upper Egypt. Its capital city was Abet, better known by its Greek name of *Abydos*, now known by its Arabic name of Umm el-Qaab).
- The sign of the eighth Upper Egypt nome was a hill-type shape surmounted by two feathers.
- Abydos was the favored burial ground of Egyptians for over 3000 years. It was thought anyone with a tomb or monument in Abydos would share in Osiris' resurrection. Each year a great festival would be held re-enacting the myth of Osiris.

## ■ Gods of Abydos

- **Osiris, Isis, and Horus** were the triad of gods for Abydos. All Egyptians tried to make a pilgrimage to the main cult center in Abydos sometime in their lifetimes or, at the very least, to be buried there. The Abydeans claimed to have Osiris' head from his dismemberment by his evil brother Set.
- **The Myth of Osiris** told of a pharaoh, beloved of Isis, who was killed by his jealous brother **Set**. Set cut Osiris into fourteen pieces and threw the pieces into the Nile. Isis collected the pieces, and using a magic formula given her by Thoth, raised him to live again. After his rebirth he begot his son **Horus**, who later avenged his father. Osiris became symbolic of the hope for rebirth.
- Osiris was shown as a mummified king wrapped in white, holding emblems of power: the crook of the shepherd and the flail to punish the wicked.
- His face was either colored black like the realm of the dead, or green for growing plants, for he was credited with introducing agriculture.
- He was shown bearded wearing the **atef crown**: the white crown of Upper Egypt with two red feathers.
- One emblem of Osiris was the **sekhem**, a symbol that had a staff of office with eyes carved on the upper part. It originated in Abydos.
- Isis, sister and wife of Osiris, was the daughter of Nut and Geb. She was known as "Mistress of Magic" for raising Osiris from the dead.
- Isis was usually shown winged with a throne on her head.
- Her symbol was the "knot of Isis."
- Isis as mother of Horus was revered as a protector of children.
- The sun's power was given to Horus through Isis.
- Horus is often depicted as a falcon, a falcon-masked man, or a winged sundisk.
- The "Eye of Horus," the left eye, came to represent the moon.
- The pharaoh was considered "the Living Horus."



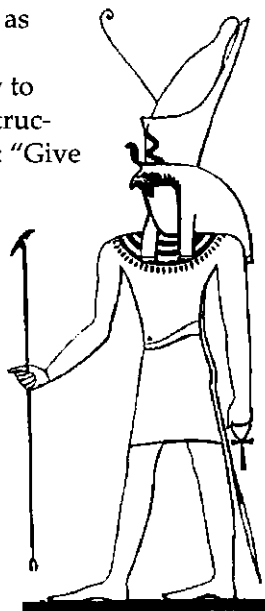
Isis

# NOME OF ABYDOS - 2

## General Rules for Egyptians

As an **Egyptian**, you must preserve "Maat," an important ethical concept that combines "order, truth, justice, and righteousness."

1. Keep your nome area neat and organize all your efforts.
2. Be honest in all you say, and do not claim others' work as your own.
3. Be fair and listen carefully to fellow Egyptians. The Instruction of Amenemopet says: "Give your ears to hear what is said. Give your heart to understand what is said."
4. Be a committed member of "the Land of the Nile."



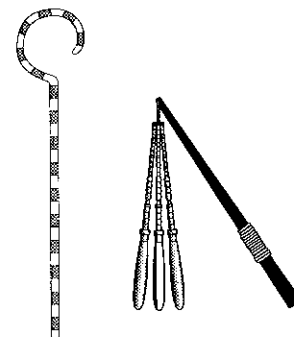
Horus

## Nome Assignment:

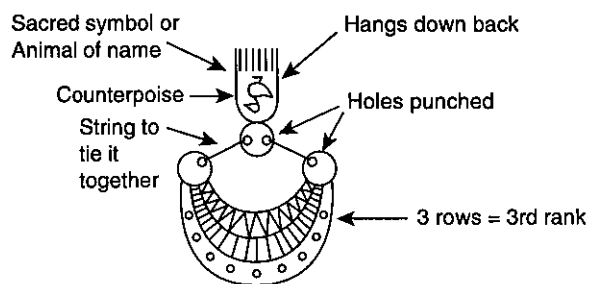
1. Create a **nome standard**, including the number of your nome. Use the symbols and colors of your nome deity.
2. Decide who is to be the **noble of your nome** (first rank); the **administrator** (second rank); the **scribe** (third rank); the **artisan** (fourth rank). The rest of the members of your nome will be the **laborers or farmers** (fifth rank).
3. Each member of the nome is to make a **menat** showing rank by the number of rows: first rank (the noble)—five rows; second rank (the administrator)—four rows; third rank (the scribe)—three rows; fourth rank (the artisan)—two rows; and fifth rank (the laborer or farmer)—one row.
4. The **menat** should use the distinctive colors and/or symbols of your nome.
5. Make a **headband** for each member of your nome, using either an uraeus representing Wedjat or a vulture representing Nekhbet. Nomes in Lower Egypt need to make an uraeus with a cobra; nomes in Upper Egypt need to make a nekhbet with a vulture.

## Rules for Abydeans

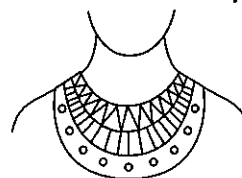
1. As an Abydean be aware of your central place in Egyptian beliefs. You represent the desire for eternal life. Work toward recognition that lasts a million years.
2. Use the crook of the shepherd wisely, watching over each other and guiding all in the nome in the right directions.
3. Use the flail carefully, knowing it is to discourage irritating pesky flies. If used harshly it can cause pain and destruction, destroying the nome's chance for immortality.
4. Abydos was known for monuments to those who had lived in "the Land of the Nile." Make monuments to your nome members; monuments to your wisdom, kindness and creative abilities; and monuments not necessarily of stone but of extraordinary effort.
5. When drawing or sculpting, use Osiris' colors of green, black, and white.
6. Keep an eye out for that which will carry your nome's name far into the future.
7. As Isis would, put a little magic into all you do.



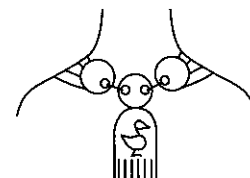
Then **Maat** will be honored, and your nome will be reborn as you travel far from the beginning to new understanding of "the Land of the Nile."



Menat  
Necklace



Front View



Back View